

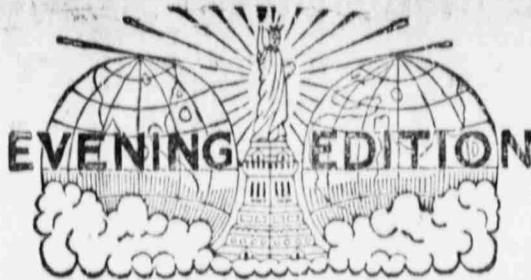
**FINAL EDITION**

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NEW YORK, OCTOBER 2, 1905.

# BOY FORGER STOLE \$359,000 BONDS HE SAYS ONLY TO WIN WAGER

Young Leonard Also Says He Wanted to Prove that Banks Are "Easy"—Explains Just How He Forged Check to Get Bonds.

(Continued from First Page.)

On Monday a week ago, Leonard says he was in the Hanover National Bank, and seeing some checks lying loose in the place he picked them up and put them in his pocket.

He was obliged to remain in line with a lot of other messengers for some time, he says, and right ahead of him was a clerk from the office of Pearl & Co., who had a package in his hand. Glancing at this, Leonard says he saw written on the envelope "\$300,000—4-1/2 per cent. bonds."

When the messenger presented the securities, Leonard says, he heard the clerk call his attention to the fact that the interest was 4-1/2 per cent., and that is how later he was able to overcome an error which, if not foreseen, would have disclosed his crime at the very outset.

## Looked Very Easy.

After leaving the bank, he went on to Leonard, "I got to thinking how easy it would be for me to annex those securities."

"When I decided to go ahead with the matter I went to the office and cut a duplicate out of an old check. This is took to No. 27 Wall street, where there is a rubber stamp place. I told the man I wanted a certification stamp like that one made, adding the necessary lettering to make it fit the check.

## Was Purposefully Careless.

"I made no attempt at clever forgery, and if I made a good signature of Certification Clerk Barnes of the Hanover it was more chance than anything else, I was careless because I knew that the whole thing was going to be very easy."

"The next day I went to the office all ready for my work. I was on Wall street. When I met a boy and I asked him if he knew where the National Bank was, he said he didn't. I told him it was on No. 23 Wall street, and handing him the check, I told him to go and get in line before the bank clerk's desk, and when it came around to hand in the check and get back & Co. securities, then on deposit."

"Leonard was on his way to the bank when he saw the boy took the check and went in line. While Leonard took up his station in the side entrance to the Custom-House on William street. Within a very short time he saw the boy come out with the securities. He asked him if he had had any trouble. The boy's answer was,

"Not a bit. I stayed in line, and they showed out the bonds."

"I looked them over that night," said Leonard, "and I had to admit to myself I forged them so I got into the least trouble. I thought the master had gone far enough and made up my mind to send the securities back in the morning. The next morning I did put \$300,000 worth of them in an envelope and wrote a note to the bank in if there had been a raid. I addressed them to Mr. Dyer, Pearl at No. 31 West Seventy-fourth street, stamped the envelope and mailed it on West Ninety-second street.

## Why He Kept the Rest.

"In all the fuss that followed I was scared. They found that the bulk of the sum had been taken and declared it was best to keep this private. The feds had after awhile that I decided to wait and see what would become of the rest.

Leonard was considerably surprised by his arrest. He didn't know he was caught, he doesn't know who he was caught by, the reason is the Bowery robber who was in the Bowery robbery, and I do to him the police and Pinkertons are indicted for the robbery."

The detectives had also nothing to go on but the rubber stamp, which the certification officer was put on the forged check. They went to every rubber stamp man in town and finally got to the Bowery man. He informed the Leonard and gave a description of the man for whom he made the stamp.

Leonard was not discovered by his arrest. He said nothing except that he had been arrested and charged to him he was told that Charles H. Fryer, twenty years old, an advertising agent, whose sentence the Judge had suspended, had been re-indicted on six different counts of forgery in the second degree, in evidence presented to the Grand Jury by the District Attorney, and committed to the Tombs to await trial by Justice Newburgh.

Fryer formerly had offices at No. 22 Broadway, and lived at No. 1 West Ninety-seventh street, with his wife and three children. He was accused of forging seven checks, calling for \$250, on the M.H. Bradley Company of Philadelphia. These were left in his possession in 1903, when he was employed by the H. W. Grunow Advertising Company of New York on Wednesday.

Learning that he was indicted, Fryer came to the city from East Providence. He showed that he was paying all his debts and that he had been led to forgery when desperate because of his financial condition. Sixteen letters from prominent persons asking clemency were received by Justice Cowing, together with a letter from Dr. J. Maher of East Providence, promising to take Fryer into business with him if he were freed. It was also brought out that Fryer belonged to a highly respected family in England.

Judge Cowing, of the Court of General Sessions, expressed disapprobation when he was told that Charles H. Fryer, twenty years old, an advertising agent, whose sentence the Judge had suspended, had been re-indicted on six different counts of forgery in the second degree, in evidence presented to the Grand Jury by the District Attorney, and committed to the Tombs to await trial by Justice Newburgh.

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At the office of Pearl & Co., No. 27 William street, it was said that Mr. Dyer had been out of the city. Other members of the firm had the same opinion. The young man's story is correct. The \$300,000 worth of securities were mailed to Mr. Pearl and were received by him intact.

Mr. Stedding, of the firm of Helle & Stedding, bankers and brokers, No. 1 Broad street, by whom Leonard was employed for three or four years, said today that he had always found the young man trustworthy and did not believe he did the job with criminal intent. He suggested he was done in by a lawyer by Leonard to prove the weakness of certain bank methods.

## Family Believes Story.

Judge Cowing was told about the other six forged checks, but he believed that sentence should be suspended. An Assistant District Attorney opposed letting Fryer go free.

Fryer went immediately to East Providence and resumed business, but the District Attorney's office had six additional indictments brought against Fryer. He was arrested, and, waiving extradition, came to New York.

"I regard the action of the District Attorney's office strange to the point of insult," said the Judge when he learned that Fryer was in the Tombs.

Woman a Suicide.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., OCT. 2.—Mrs. Robert O. Lewis, wife of a prominent member of this city, committed suicide by shooting at her home here to-day.

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